WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE BY DEPUTY J.M. MAÇON OF ST. SAVIOUR ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 19th MARCH 2018

Question

Will the Chairman advise whether or not the new Chief Executive has been granted full access to Morier House and, if so, will he explain how the independence of the States Greffe (including the Scrutiny Office) will be maintained; and will he state what assessment, if any, was undertaken by the Committee before access was granted?

Answer

Morier House is occupied by three non-ministerial departments – the States Greffe, the Law Officers' Department and the Viscount's Department – and access to the building is a matter for the principal officers of the three departments.

The incoming CEO asked to be granted access to Morier House so that he could meet with the Law Officers, the Greffier of the States and the Law Draftsman without being unduly delayed at the ground floor reception. The Attorney General and the Greffier agreed that he could be issued with a fob permitting entry only to the second floor and to the reception area of the third floor of the building through the main entrance during office hours.

This arrangement reciprocates the access to Cyril Le Marquand House which the Attorney General and the Greffier had already been granted.

The Law Officers are appointed by the Crown and the arrangements which guarantee their independence from the executive are set out in the Departments of the Judiciary and the Legislature (Jersey) Law 1965. The Greffier of the States is appointed by the Bailiff with the consent of the States and the independence of the role is guaranteed by virtue of Article 41 of the States of Jersey Law 2005. The independence of these roles is not affected by the decision to permit the CEO working hours access to parts of Morier House.